

Laird. 17 May 1840.

My dear boy,

I sent you one Newspaper with some lines of mine on "Inspection of schools"; and, afterwards, another with nothing of mine. I mention this as Newspapers are apt to miscarry. There are some lines of mine in yesterday's "Independent", "The Church in Danger", which I now send. Next week I may have "An excellent new Ballad", called the "Forer's Confession" to the tune of the "Biar of Bray, Sir," which I can afford to send you, as my Radical verses are published in two Papers, one for me and one for you, the "Western Times" and the "Independent".

After May had refused my Article he admitted another, taking the Dissenters' side on the same subject, without his perceiving the bearing, and got himself into somewhat of a scrape with the Church — mine took no side, except against the National Society. May has made a sufficient apology by telling me he thought I was a better judge than himself of what was the best for the Paper. But another hindrance to the continuance of my writing I have chosen to advance — my being compelled to ask for my pay, and sometimes to ask in vain. On this point we seem to have split, as he tells me he cannot engage to pay punctually. Can he think that any



one, who can write like a gentleman, will consent to ask for his due? I will not write for his Paper and ask for my money — he must pay without my asking for it, and punctually, or I will have nothing more to do with the "Journal". It is plain he has presumed it is of importance to me; but I shall effectually take the starch out of him, or fail in the attempt.

There is a "Star Chamber" matter between me and the Institution. I have written a long letter to Mr. Woolcombe, complaining of the rude and improper conduct of the Secretary, Dr. Moore, to me; and intimating that I may publish the letter. The Institution stands in need of me; yet there is a strong Tory feeling against me, as well as an unchristian feeling; and therefore I expect that Dr. Moore will be upheld in not making a due apology. With all my heart! After stating my grounds of complaint to the President, I wrote — "Educated from my childhood as I have been, and accustomed to a gentlemanly demeanour from all, if I am to listen to attempted indignities, and be subject to rudeness in the Committee of the Plymouth Institution from its Secretary, much as I desire its welfare,



I cannot consent to be a Member of it at so high a price. It is in the power of the Committee to identify themselves with the conduct of this Secretary, or not; it is in their power, therefore, to decide whether I am compelled to send in my resignation from the Society, or remain as heretofore." The whole of my letter was quiet and resolute, much approved of by Col. Smith. Of course the impropriety and rudeness towards me was of an undoubted nature. Still I think they will lose, by rank hatred towards me on the part of the Parsons, their second fiddle, <sup>Phidias being the first,</sup> in their discussions and two promised lectures. A day or two ago Woolcombe met me going out in the avenue. He said he would call on Monday (tomorrow), what he will have to say as a peace maker I know not; but this I know that nothing less than Dr. Moore's resignation as Secretary, or his written apology, can content me.

Your living in your uncle's house is not a matter requiring my interference, special or incidental. I never believed it would prove agreeable to either party, and told you as much last winter. When folks choose to part, let them part friends; which I hope you have done. There



is one thing, however, in your change of abode which  
extremely interests me. I expect to be assured that  
you will reside in a respectable house, and that you  
associate with respectable people. My meaning to the  
word respectable is, as you ought to know, not in  
regard to chintz furniture and all sorts of questionable  
assumptions, but to good character, undoubted  
probity, and unfeigned sincerity. You have seen  
more of the world than most of your age — be not  
deceived! Take no man's or woman's flattering words  
as a proof of sincerity. Beware of all inside our  
claims on your pocket. Never show so much weakness  
as to be led astray at another's suggestion; every one  
has suggestions enough, and too many, of his own.

You ask me if your envelopes at 1/-  $\text{\pounds}100$   
are not cheap. I answer by referring you to mine  
of this letter, which costs 6/9  $\text{\pounds}ream$ , or about  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\text{\pounds}$   
guine. A guine contains 48 half sheets — that is,  
~~three~~ <sup>three</sup> for a fathom. Now yours are little more than  
two for a fathom. I therefore think you have paid  
~~about~~ <sup>50 percent</sup> nearly ~~too much~~ too much for your envelopes.  
I thought you were a better calculator.

Your affectionate father,  
Chas. Brown.







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